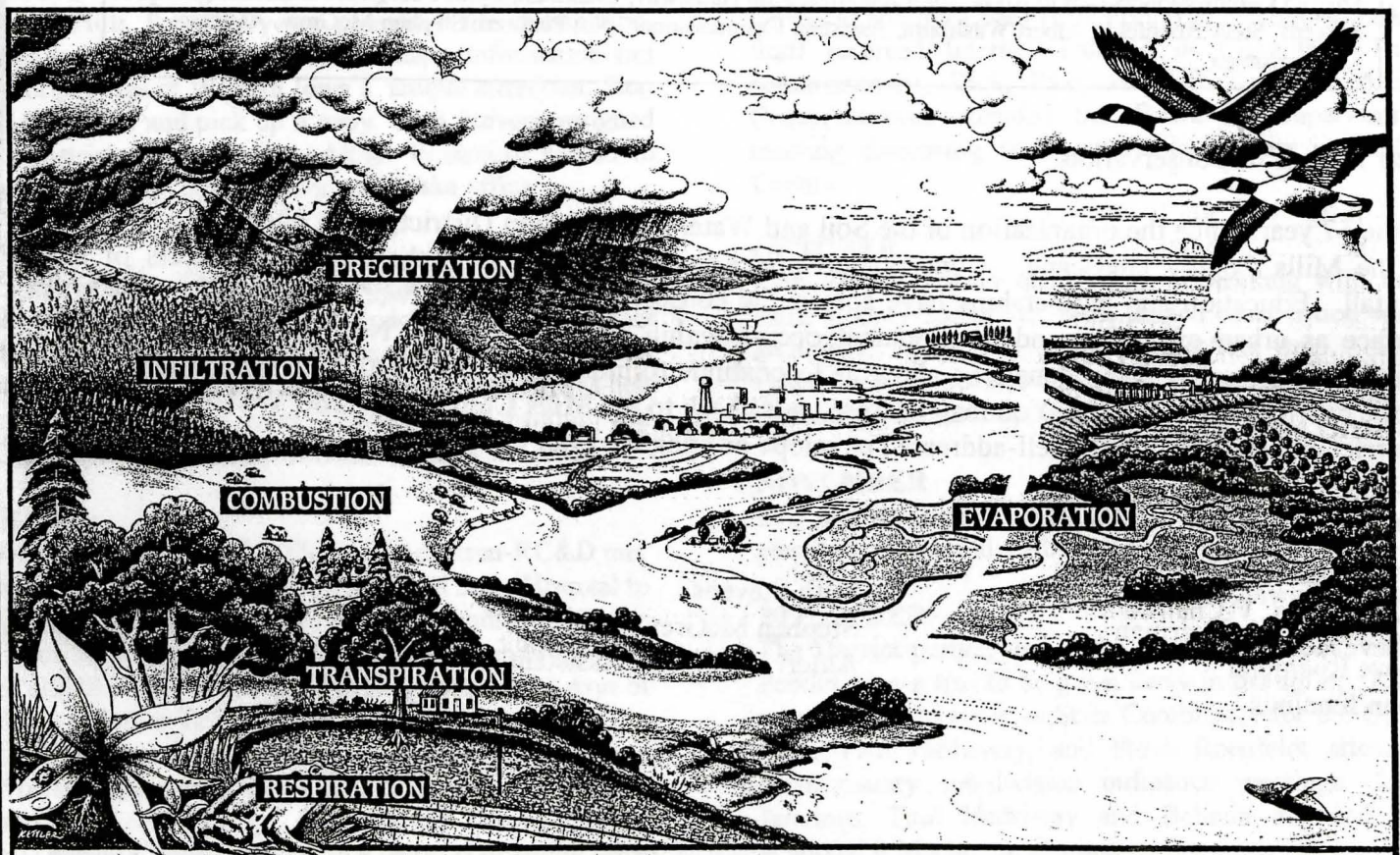


MILLS COUNTY

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1998
ANNUAL REPORT



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



District Commissioners Left to Right: John Jennings; Paul Hathaway, Chairman; Lynn Goos, Vice-Chairman; Ruth Stevens; Steve Roenfeldt; Albert Washburn, Assistant Commissioner. Not Pictured: Stephen McGrew, Assistant Commissioner

Dear Friends of Conservation:

In the 57 years since the organization of the Soil and Water Conservation District, many changes have occurred in the Mills County landscape. Conservation practices have helped stem the disastrous effects of heavy rainfall. Education and partnerships have spread the conservation ethic. Our work is not done. New clients surface as urban expansion and development occurs within our county lines. New generations need to be continually educated. Your donations allow us to continue to implement conservation education and awareness in the district. Please help us. You may address your check to the **Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District** and enclose it in the self-addressed envelope or bring it by our office.

Thank you for your help in protecting our future.

Paul Hathaway, Chairman
Lynn Goos, V-Chairman
Steve Roenfeldt
John Jennings

Ruth Stevens
Stephen McGrew, Assistant
Albert Washburn, Assistant

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

A Four County Exposition was held in Shenandoah sponsored by Extension and NRCS. All office personnel attended Civil Rights Training.

FEBRUARY

988 acres of CRP contracts were accepted in Mills County. An Area 4 Appreciation Meeting was held in Atlantic. Four County Contractor's Meeting was held at the Headquarters in Shenandoah. Linda attended a two-day FOCS Training Session in Creston. The District awarded three scholarships to area seniors. Rich attended an Urban Conference in Iowa City.

MARCH

Dick Stille, Belinda Greene, Steve Peterson and Mike Kresin attended an EQIP workshop in Red Oak. Belinda and Linda assisted with the Regional Envirothon Contest in Corning. Dick Stille and Bonnie Pierce attended two days of training on Integrated Farm Management.

APRIL

EQIP sign-up started, running until May 15. One contract was accepted. Terrace construction started late due to a wet spring. Mills County received copies of the Loess Hills Scenic Byway pamphlet for distribution. This is a wonderful collection of maps, information and color pictures of Western Iowa's unique attraction. Stop in our office and pick up a copy. Ruth Stevens resigned as District Commissioner. Albert Washburn agreed to fill until a new commissioner could take office.

MAY

Linda, Bonnie and Belinda participated in AG Days held at Mills County Fair Grounds and Glenwood Lake Park sponsored by Extension Service. This program was for 5th graders. A contractor layout training session was held at the Don Hansen farm. Rich held a meeting with Cheryl Ross and Naomi Christensen on urban issues.

JUNE

Wayne Peterson-NRCS, Shirley Fredricksen-RC&D met with Rich and Bonnie at the Glenwood State Hospital to gather ideas for future plans for the grounds. (Work has begun on Wetland and Forest Restoration on the grounds of GSHS.) The NRCS and FSA staff attended 3 days of Service Center Training. The tillage tour conducted indicated an increase in tillage from prior years. Mills County experienced heavy rains causing severe flooding and heavy crop damage. Rich met with Wayne Peterson and Randy Cooney to develop a report concerning urban conservation issues.

JULY

The technicians attended a three day seminar for Conservation Planning at the Armstrong Research Farm. Shirley Fredricksen-RC&D at Oakland and Rich started work on a brochure for home buyers and developers in Mills County. Mark Jensen, State Engineer from the State Office visited the Malvern field office to make determinations for breach routing on Waubonsie Creek, Pony Creek and Mule Creek Watersheds and discussing concerns about development in Mills County. Conservation in the Backyard was the theme for the Fair Booth. Many people stopped by the booth. You may stop by our office for your copy of the brochure. It is an excellent publication.

AUGUST

Bonnie attended the State Coordinators Meeting for the Quality Steering Team in Des Moines. Rich and Dick attended the Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss Mills County SWCD concerns on urban development. All staff attended an area wide meeting at Lake Icaria.

SEPTEMBER

Rich attended a legislative town-hall meeting in Griswold and the Loess Hills Forum at Hitchcock Park. Staff received Internet Training in Clarinda. The commissioners, Dick, Rich, and Jeff Zimprich, Area Conservationist attended the Board of Supervisors meeting discussing soil conservation issues in Mills County.

OCTOBER

Rich started a water quality project working with the Mills County Sanitarian. Fall terrace construction was underway. Joni Sell provided excellent help. The Commissioners received five soil loss complaints, four involving a sub-division and one agricultural.

NOVEMBER

CRP sign-up began and ran until December 11th. Rich attended a Loess Hills Alliance Meeting.

DECEMBER

The District participated in the Festival of Trees. Edith Powles won a tree to be given away in the spring. Rich was selected to serve as State Coordinator for the QST. Rich, Paul Hathaway, and Steve Roenfeldt attended three county sub-division ordinance meetings. John Jennings, Paul Hathaway and Belinda attended the Regional 8 Meeting in Clarinda.

OFFICE STAFF



Office Staff Front Row: Belinda Greene, Secretary; Joni Sell, WAE; Linda Seipold, Soil Conservation Technician; Bonnie Pierce, Soil Conservation Technician Back Row: Dick Stille, District Conservationist; Rich Maaske, State Technician

OUR COST SHARE PROGRAM

Mills County administers their cost share program to assist you in applying conservation practices to the land with financial assistance. The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) finances the program with emphasis of long range conservation practices such as terraces. The REAP program is also financed by IDALS with assistance on establishing natural resources such as tree planting and windbreaks. The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will allow you to put contour grass strips and cropland along streams into grass and receive payment for ten years. A Soil Conservation Technician will assist you with on-site farm visits, determining practices best suited for your problem, and help with design and cost estimates.

- Sign an application at the NRCS office and receive assistance with design and cost estimate
- Sign up is taken during January and February. The drawing is held in March for order of cost share. Other applications may be taken during the year and considered as funds are available.
- Landowner receives notice when they are approved for cost share and contacts a contractor.
- An appointment is made with landowner and technician for layout of practice.
- Practice is installed. Bills are turned in to the office. Practice is inspected.
- Approved by the commissioners for payment. Landowner signs maintenance agreement requiring them to maintain practice for the specified period of time.

-----Financial Report-----

REVOLVING FUND

Balance on Hand
January 1, 1998 **125.56**

INCOME/DEPOSITS

Donations	\$ 530.54
US Treasury	560411.30
Money Market Fund	1250.00
1-M Reimbursement	4136.15
BPA	270.00
TOTAL INCOME	566597.99

EXPENSES

Postage	845.60
Dues	1052.00
Office Supplies	1437.61
Copier	180.00
Dixon Construction Inc.	560411.30
Insurance	200.00
Education and Gifts	1181.85
Commissioner Mileage	891.70
Misc.	212.45
TOTAL EXPENSES	566412.51

BALANCE AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 1998 **\$311.04**

4-\$5000.00 CD'S

MONEY MARKET FUND

Balance on Hand **\$15274.93**
January 1, 1998

DEPOSITS

Interest	\$ 335.94
1-M Expenses	505.42
Computer reimbursement	1870.42
BPA	270.00
Dues reimbursement	250.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 2961.78

WITHDRAWS

Gateway 2000	\$3781.00
Checking	4537.00

Balance on Hand
December 31, 1998 **\$ 9918.71**

III-M BUDGET 1997-98

Total Allocation	87,184.00
Total Spent	64,392.40
Balance 12/31/98	22,791.60

III-M BUDGET 1998-99

Total Allocation	98655.00
Total Spent	22071.95
Total Allocation	75720.75
Balance on Hand 12/31/98	862.30

III-M BUDGET 1997-98

Total Allocation	87184.00
Total Spent	86337.50
Recalled by State	846.50
Balance on Hand 12/31/98	0.00

III-M BUDGET 1996-97

Total Allocation	131659.00
Total Spent	131226.87
Recalled by State	432.13
Balance on Hand 12/31/98	0.00

REAP PRACTICES 1999

Total Allocation	7026.00
Total Spent	1912.50
Balance 12/31/98	5113.50

REAP PRACTICES 1998

Total Allocation	8015.00
Total Spent	4799.82
Recalled by State	3215.18
Balance on Hand 12/31/98	0.00

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES 1999

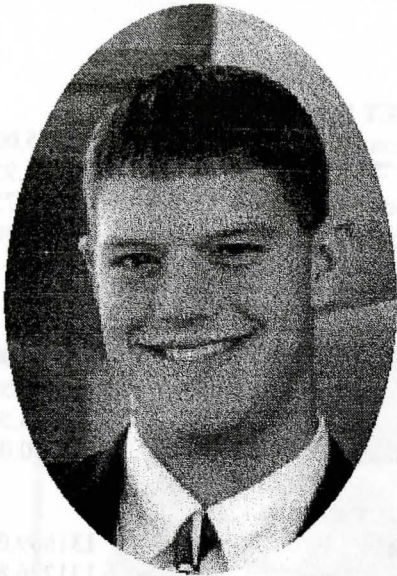
Total Allocation	1811.00
Total Spent	1400.00
Balance on Hand 12-31-98	411.00

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES 1998

Total Allocation	1808.50
Total Spent	732.08
Recalled by State	1076.42
Total on Hand 12/31/98	0.00

Mills County installed 42 terrace systems totaling 192,875 feet, resulting in an average soil loss reduction of 7 tons per acre on 841 acres.

1998 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Bryce Christensen

Bryce is the son of Doug and Lynn Christensen of rural Hastings and a 1998 graduate of the Nishna Valley School District. Bryce was active in sports, school and community activities. This includes ten years of 4-H, participating in livestock judging at local, state and national levels and taking an active role with the family farm. Bryce is concerned about animal waste control laws and their effect on future generations. He plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Animal Science and ultimately enter the Veterinary School. Bryce has certainly prepared himself for that career.

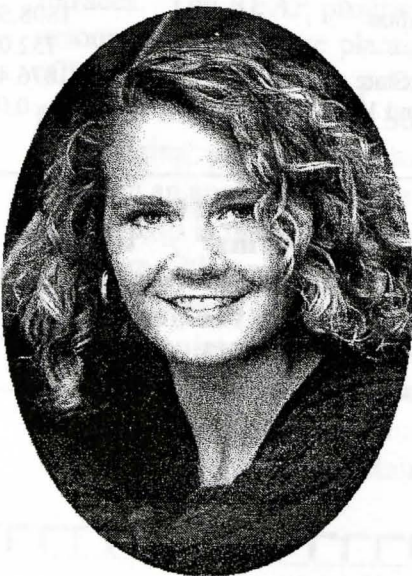
Adam Eggeling

Adam Eggeling, the son of Sally Eggeling and Larry Eggeling, graduated from Malvern High School in 1998. Adam was active in a number of high school activities and sports besides working full time and being a mentor to younger children. His plans include attending Buena Vista University for a degree in accounting or business education. Adam is concerned about the depletion of pure water and unchecked air pollution. Adam's scholarship was made possible through the generous donation of Mrs. Elizabeth Swanson of Tabor. She donated 250 dollars to our scholarship fund just prior to her death. Her legacy will live on. Congratulations to Adam and best of luck!



Carissa Roenfeldt

Carissa Roenfeldt is the daughter of Steve and Tammy Roenfeldt of rural Glenwood. She graduated from Glenwood in 1998. Carissa has been accepted at Iowa State University and plans on a career in computer engineering or computer science. She was active in many activities in school and in the Glenwood community while maintaining a 4.0 grade average. During spring semester, she was a Governor's Page in Des Moines. Carissa believes one of the outstanding conservation issues concerning southwest Iowa is the wise use of the Loess Hills. She is concerned about the development for business and personal use without regard to preservation. Carissa has received a scholarship from the Iowa West Foundation and has declined our award as part of the conditions of that grant. We know she will be successful in her endeavors and wish her well!



Cost Share Terraces

State Cost Share Terraces (in feet)

3 R Farms Partnership	2425
4 Corner Farms	2300
Achenbaugh, Wendall	2650
Babbitt, Mark	1750
Benton, Joe	2150
Bierman, Richard	1900
Bingaman, Ruth	6150
Bruce, Elmer	4050
Dashner, Ann	5650
Dunsdon, Don	9000
Evans, Arnold	1750
Evans, Charlotte Trust	2800
Evans, Mark	7000
Gee, Kevin	5450
Goos, Lynn	2950
Goy Land Corp	7850
Hansen, Don	9350
Harbor, Jack	2500
Harmon, Richard	1300
Hinz, Joann	2200
Hopp, Edward	5600
Horn, Ray	2100
Hunt, William	3100
Kruse, Jeff	3400
Larson, Fred	10450
Lorimor, Dan	5350
McManical, Charles	9300
Mintle, Margaret	8000
Morgal, Ronald	1350
Pulk, Rebecca	7500
Sayers Farms	1150
Schoening, Gregg	9150
Schoening, LeRoy	9600
Sowers, Don	11900
Tackett, Wilbur	5900
Thomas, Dorothea	4850
Thompson, Don	1900
Western Hills Ranch	6200
Wiseman, EH & RH	2800
Woodfill, Jared	950

Non Cost Share Terraces (in feet)

Crom, David	350
Dickersbach, Otha	1050
Mintle, Howard	2300

Tree Planting

Mielke, Sharon	3 Acres
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Bufferstrips

Courtier, Fred	2 acres
Johnson, Keith	5 acres
Kahl, Raymond	6 acres
Laughlin, Ed	2 acres
Laughlin, Mike	3 acres
Spetman, Bob	13 acres
Vinton, Max	3 acres
Williams, Larry	3 acres

NEW !!!

The Commissioners of Mills County SWCD have decided to cost share on seeding for strip cropping (buffer strips) to encourage producers to explore alternatives to terraces. Buffer Strips have many advantages. They are economical to install, provide turn areas when planting short rows and can be used for hay production. They return valuable nutrients to the soil and provide wildlife habitat. Cost share will be up to \$15 per acre. This will carry a five year performance agreement. Stop by and sign up, we will be taking applications along with our regular terrace signup.

The Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce the Conservation Farmer of the Year, Roger Neumeister. Roger, his wife Charlotte and their two daughters Amy and Ann, moved to Mills County from Otoe County, Nebraska in 1984 to Charlotte's family farm in Anderson Township. Roger did not farm on a big scale, but he employed every aspect of total resource management. He farmed 160 acres in Mills county and 80 acres in Montgomery County. All of his land is completely terraced with field borders and waterways completed. Roger experimented with a number of tillage systems to control erosion and work effectively with his livestock operation. A farmstead windbreak was planted several years ago and is thriving. Roger utilized his pasture ground to support his cattle herd and was the proud producer of Tamworth hogs. He was the current president of the National Tamworth Swine Association and especially enjoyed traveling to Ohio for their yearly convention. Roger held a full time job with the Farm Service Agency in Mills County since 1985. He was well known and respected for his professional manner in doing measurement service and carrying out spot-check responsibilities. His professionalism was only exceeded by his kindness.



His activities off the farm were many. Roger and Charlotte were active in 4-H, club leaders, teen club leaders and sponsor to two Washington D.C. trips. They were deeply involved with the Oaks Community Church in rural Anderson Township and the Emerson American Legion. They were also avid square dancers having a long association with the Henderson Squares. He was truly looked at as a leader in the community.

Roger was awarded this honor posthumously. The family accepted the Conservation Farm Sign during the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce Farmer Appreciation Celebration this summer.

**MILLS COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Box 190
Malvern, IA 51551-0190

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Malvern, IA 51551
Permit No. 34